

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00444 211816Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /088 W
-----220248Z 130825 /71

R 211722Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4558
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMCONSUL BELIZE
ULPALJA/USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0444

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BH, GT, BY, CS
SUBJ: BELIZE DISPUTE: SOLUTION PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA

REF: SAN JOSE 268

1. IF PRESIDENT ODUBER HOPES THAT SCENARIO HE DISCUSSED WITH
AMBASSADOR TODMAN (REFTEL) WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO GUATEMALA, WE
FEAR HE WILL BE DISAPPOINTED. BRITISH FORCES IN BELIZE ARE NOT AN
EMOTIONAL OBSTACLE TO SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTE BUT RATHER A
REASSURING PRESENCE TO THE GUATEMALANS - REASSURING BECAUSE AS
LONG AS BRITISH ARE THERE, BELIZE IS NOT INDEPENDENT AND
GUATEMALA STILL HAS SOME CHANCE OF NEGOTIATING A SETTLEMENT ON
FAVORABLE TERMS.

2. SECONDLY, AS LONG AS BRITISH ARE THERE, GOG KNOWS THAT IN-
FILTRATION BY CUBAN AGENTS OR CUBAN TRAINED GUERRILLA LEADERS
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THROUGH BELIZE INTO GUATEMALA WILL BE DIFFICULT AND ANY KIND OF
FORMAL BELIZEAN MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH CUBA WILL BE
IMPOSSIBLE. INTERNAL BELIZEAN POLITICS CAN ALSO BE EXPECTED
TO STAY WITHIN MODERATE BOUNDS. GUATEMALA IS FEARFUL THAT THESE
RESTRAINTS WILL DISAPPEAR ONCE BRITISH LEAVE.

3. GOG IS MOST UNLIKELY TO BE REASSURED BY A SUBSTITUTION

OF PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD UNITS FOR BRITISH FORCES. IT BELIEVES THAT PANAMA BETRAYED IT AT THE 1976 UNGA BY VOTING FOR THE UK-BELIZE RESOLUTION AND IT DOES NOT HOLD A HIGH REGARD FOR TORRIJOS IN ANY EVENT. A PROPOSAL TO REPLACE BRITISH TROOPS WITH A LA FORCE DRAWING ON OTHER COUNTRIES VIEWED AS FRIENDLIER TO GUATEMALA MIGHT BE ATTRACTIVE TO THE GOG (ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT TO BELIZE), BUT NOT IF INDEPENDENCE WERE TO FOLLOW. GUATEMALA'S BEST HOPE FOR FORCING BELIZE AND THE UK TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IS TO DELAY INDEPENDENCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM00444
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0862
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770130/aaaabalm.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a0e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN JOSE 268
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3541159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELIZE DISPUTE: SOLUTION PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA
TAGS: PFOR, BH, GT, BY, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a0e61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009